Inclusion of India in the List of Countries making Narcotics

†928. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have registered any protest or taken any action on the inclusion of India's name by USA in the list of the countries making narcotics; and

(b) if so, USA's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) In November, the US Government presented Part I of its annual International Norcotics Control Strategy Report to the US Congress. The report is in pursuance of the US Foreign Assistance Act 1996 on international efforts to meet the goals and objectives of the 1988 UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substance.

Part I of the report is a simple listing of countries, which are *either illicit drug producing or drug transit countries.* With major drug producing countries in India's neighbourhood, transit of drugs through India as a possibility is a source of conern, including to the Government of India. The Final Report which was submitted to the US Congress in 1999, acknowledges that India has taken adequate steps on its own to achieve the objectives of the 1988 United Nations Convention.

(c) Does not arise.

Release of Captives of India and Pakistan

†929. SHRI RAMJI LAL:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan had released the captives of each other's country on 21st March, 1999;

(b) if so, the category-wise number of captives released by each country;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.